



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/560,191	05/03/2007	Isabelle Bossard	15261.0003USWO	2933
23552 7590 10/16/2008				
MERCHANT & GOULD PC				
P.O. BOX 2903				
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-0903				
EXAMINER				
SIMPSON, SARAH A				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3731				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
10/16/2008		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/560,191

Applicant(s)

BOSSARD ET AL.

Examiner

SARAH A. SIMPSON

Art Unit

3731

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 May 2006.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 and 14-16 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 and 14-16 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 05 December 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SF/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 5/12/2006/3/2/2006
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Acknowledgement is made of the amendment filed 5/12/2006, amending claim 1 and canceling claims 9-13 and 17-19. Accordingly, claims 1-8 and 14-16 are pending and presented for examination.

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of a certified copy of the 0313032.5 application referred to in the oath or declaration or in an application data sheet. If this copy is being filed to obtain the benefits of the foreign filing date under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), applicant should also file a claim for such priority as required by 35 U.S.C. 119(b). If the application being examined is an original application filed under 35 U.S.C. 111(a) (other than a design application) on or after November 29, 2000, the claim for priority must be presented during the pendency of the application, and within the later of four months from the actual filing date of the application or sixteen months from the filing date of the prior foreign application. See 37 CFR 1.55(a)(1)(i). If the application being examined has entered the national stage from an international application filed on or after November 29, 2000, after compliance with 35 U.S.C. 371, the claim for priority must be made during the pendency of the application and within the time limit set forth in the PCT and Regulations of the PCT. See 37 CFR 1.55(a)(1)(ii). Any claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) or (f) or 365(a) or (b) not presented within the time period

set forth in 37 CFR 1.55(a)(1) is considered to have been waived. If a claim for foreign priority is presented after the time period set forth in 37 CFR 1.55(a)(1), the claim may be accepted if the claim properly identifies the prior foreign application and is accompanied by a grantable petition to accept an unintentionally delayed claim for priority. See 37 CFR 1.55(c).

Claim Objections

2. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: On line 1 of claim 1, "u" should be deleted. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

4. **Claims 1, 2 and 14-16** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by **Collins (GB 2384704 A)**.

Regarding claim 1, Collins discloses a device for removing a composition and depilated hair from the skin, the device comprising: a non-shaving head (2) which in use is moved over the skin to effect removal of the composition (page 1, lines 3-6); a handle

(3) having a curvature profile and a broadened end distal from the non-shaving head (fig. 2); and a joint (4) between the head and the handle, permitting an articulation of the head about the handle.

Regarding claim 2, Collins discloses the device as claimed in claim 1, wherein there is a resistance force acting against articulation of the head, which resistance force increases as the articulation increases (page 6, lines 1-10; wherein the hinge and resistant material of the device provides for a resistance force that increases as the articulation increases).

Regarding claim 14, Collins discloses a device for removing a depilatory composition and depilated entrained hair from skin, the device comprising a translucent (wherein polyethylene is translucent) integrally molded thermoplastic unit (page 5, lines 1-4), the unit consisting essentially of: a non-shaving head (2), the head comprising a planar surface comprising a flat top surface and a fiat under surface, the planar surface ending in a single straight edge ((2a); figs. 1-4); a handle (3) having a curvature profile and a broadened end distal from the head (fig. 3); and a single joint (4) between the handle and the head providing limited articulation of the head with respect to the handle.

Regarding claim 15, Collins discloses the device wherein there is a resistance force acting against articulation of the head, which resistance force increases as the articulation increases (page 6, lines 1-10; wherein the hinge and resistant material of the device provides for a resistance force that increases as the articulation increases).

Regarding claim 16, Collins discloses the device wherein the joint is formed by a web of plastic material at the base of an upwardly open notch between the handle and a curved surface of the head (page 5, lines 1-4).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

7. **Claims 3-8** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Collins (GB 2384704 A)**.

Regarding claim 3, Collins discloses the invention except for wherein the head comprises an articulation about the handle through an angle in the range of 10 to 40°.

However, Collins teaches a head comprising an articulation about the handle that appears to be an angle in the range of 10 to 40° (figs. 2-4).

Given the teachings of Collins, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the device of Collins with an angle in the range of 10 to 40°. It has been held that where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, discovering the optimum or working ranges involves only routine skill in the art.

Regarding claim 4, Collins essentially discloses the device wherein when the force, causing articulation of the head, is reduced or removed the head is able to recover a previous or original position (page 2, lines 19-30).

Regarding claims 5-7, Collins essentially discloses the device being unitary and made of plastic (page 5, lines 1-4) wherein the handle is substantially rigid, the head is substantially rigid, and the joint is the only source of articulation (page 2, lines 19-30).

Regarding claim 8, Collins essentially discloses the invention wherein the joint is formed by a web of plastic material at the base of an upwardly open notch between the handle and the head (page 5, lines 1-4).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SARAH A. SIMPSON whose telephone number is 571-270-3865. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8 am - 5 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Todd Manahan can be reached on 571-272-4713. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Sarah A Simpson/
Examiner, Art Unit 3731

/Todd E Manahan/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3731